GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1303
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
ERADICATION OF MEASLES
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that half of the Jarawas people, a tribal community in Andaman & Nicobar Island suffer from measles;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance given to these tribals by the Union Government; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b) : The problem regarding prevalence of measles in Andaman & Nicobar Island is not very serious. As per the data available, measles cases reported in Andaman & Nicobar Island during 1999-2001 are as follows:-

Year	No. of cases
1999	160
2000	182
2001	010

(c) For prevention and control of epidemic-prone communicable diseases, a central sector health programme i.e. National Surveillance Programme for Communicable Diseases (NSPCD) is being implemented since 1997 by National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) which is the nodal agency for monitoring and supervision of the programme, which is in operation in 101 districts of the country including Port Blair of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The aim of NSPCD is to generate early warning signals of diseases outbreaks and rapid response thereto.